Statement

Creation of artificial demand for cement

December, 1999	—	8.08 million tonnes
December, 2000	—	7.08 million tonnes (−12.4% variation)
January, 2000	—	8.58 million tones
January, 2001	—	7.38 million tonnes (−14% variation)

FDI in Plantation Sector

17. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to allow Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the Plantation Sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal to allow 74% foreign direct investment in the plantation sector is still under consideration of the Government.

Purchase of rubber by STC

18. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the quantity of natural rubber purchased by the STC during 2000, month-wise;

(b) the quantum of natural rubber sold out of this and at what price; and

(c) whether the Government propose to export natural rubber?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Details of the quantum of Natural Rubber procured, sold and

price realised by STC during the year 2000, month-wise are given below:—

Month	Purchased Qty. (MT)	Sold Qt. (MT)	Sold Rate (Rs. Kg.) (Average)
Jan.	—	—	—
Feb.	—	—	—
March	297	—	—
April	848	735	30.08
May	3069	2638	30.16
June	3234	3227	30.20
July	3670	4279	29.46
Aug.	4269	3943	29.23
Sept.	1834	2255	29.61
Oct.	2194	2484	29.40
Nov.	1584	2176	30.60
Dec.	1779	1041	30.79
TOTAL:	22778	22778	29.95

(c) As per the existing Exim Policy (1997—2002) the export of Natural Rubber is already free and can be undertaken by any person or agency.

Investments made in industrial sector

19. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have made heavy investment in industrial sector;

(b) if so, the details of the investment made during the last three years, State-wise; and